

Editorial Graphics and Publishing Services

Comprise; compose

Misused and confused

To comprise means “to contain, embrace.”

Example: The state of Maryland comprises 24 counties.

The phrase *comprised of*, though increasingly common, is poor usage.

To compose means “to make up, to form the substance of something.”

Example: The committee is composed of parents, teachers, and community stakeholders.

Taken from *Edit Yourself, A Manual for Everyone Who Works With Words*, Bruce Ross-Larson, © 1996.